

Message Text

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TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION TESTIMONY ON GREECE, TURKEY AND
CYPRUS BEFORE HIRC

REF: STATE 91929

FOLLOWING IS BRIEF COLLOQUY BETWEEN REP. FOWLER (D-GA) AND
SECRETARY VANCE, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY ON CONDI-
TIONS RE REOPENING OF US BASES IN TURKEY AND CIRCUMSTANCES
WHICH PROMPTED USG TO REQUEST LIFTING OF EMBARGO AT THIS
TIME. FOR REASONS STATED PARA ONE REFTEL, FOLLOWING EX-
TRACT IS AGAIN FOR ADDRESSEES' INFORMATION ONLY.

BEGIN TEXT:

FOWLER: TO USE A LEGAL TERM, AM I UNDERSTANDING YOU TO
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SAY IN YOUR ANSWER TO MR. SOLARZ, IS THE LIFTING OF THIS
EMBARGO A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO US REOPENING OUR BASES
IN TURKEY?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED
WHEN WE SAID THAT WE WERE GOING TO LIFT THE EMBARGO
THAT THEY WOULD THEN BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS

WITH RESPECT TO USE OF THOSE BASES. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER YOU WOULD CALL IT A CONDITION PRECEDENT OR NOT. WE MADE THE DETERMINATION APART FROM THAT. WE DECIDED FOR THE REASONS I HAVE GIVEN YOU, WE THOUGHT THE TIME HAD NOW COME WHEN THE EMBARGO OUGHT TO BE LIFTED. I WOULD NOT DESCRIBE IT IN MY OWN TERMS A CONDITION PRECEDENT.

FOWLER: IN LISTENING TO THIS DISCUSSION THIS MORNING FROM ALL THREE, I CANNOT PINPOINT WHAT HAS HAPPENED THAT HAS MADE THE ADMINISTRATION COME AT THIS TIME TO MAKE THIS PROPOSAL WITH ALL OF ITS DIRE WARNING OF IRREVERSABLE DETERIORATION IF THE CONGRESS DOES NOT ACT IMMEDIATELY. I SEE THOUGH -- AS YOU KNOW, I OPPOSE THE QUESTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR THE ARMS SALE, WITH THE SAME WARNINGS OF IRREVERSABLE DETERIORATION. IF THE CONGRESS DOES NOT ACT, WHAT COULD BE, I KNOW YOU DO NOT LIKE THE LINKAGE THERE, BUT I SEE SOME SIMILARITY AND SOME POSITIVE SIMILARITIES, THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS IN TWO VERY TROUBLED SPOTS OF THE WORLD, OUR ALLIED AND OUR NEW FOUND FRIENDS.

BUT I OBVIOUSLY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO ASK THE QUESTION. I KNOW SOMETHING HAS PRECIPITATED THIS JOINT DETERMINATION WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE THIS RECOMMENDATION AT THIS TIME THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN PRIVY TO, NOT FOR REASONS OF ANY CONSPIRACY, BUT CAN YOU HELP ME ANSWER A NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTION?

SECRETARY VANCE: LET ME TRY AND HELP YOU ON THAT. THE PROBLEM OF OUR RELATIONS WITH TURKEY ARE PROBLEMS WITH THE CONDITION OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO HAVE BEEN VERY TROUBLESOME PROBLEM RIGHT FROM THE TIME WE CAME INTO OFFICE AND, INDEED, WE HAVE SEEN THEM EVEN BEFORE WE CAME INTO OFFICE AS DEEPLY TROUBLED PROBLEMS. WE HAVE EXAMINED THEM WITH GREAT CARE TO SEE HOW WE CAN DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS.

ALSO, THE PROBLEM OF CYPRUS HAS BEEN A CONCERN OF THIS ADMINISTRATION AND, INDEED, IT WAS A CONCERN OF THE PRESIDENT'S BEFORE HE CAME INTO OFFICE. AND WE HAVE

LOOKED AT ALL THE POSSIBLE WAYS OF TRYING TO DEAL WITH THESE THREE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS.

WE CAME UP WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT THE BEST WAY OF DEALING WITH IT WAS TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AND NOT TO SEND FORWARD THE DCA AS SUCH, BUT TO RENEGOTIATE THE BASE AGREEMENTS AND BRING THEM UP TO DATE. WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE

DO THIS, THEN WE ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME CHANCE OF MAKING
THIS. IT IS NOT JUST A STALEMATE. IT IS A DETERIORATING
SITUATION WHICH EXISTS IN A CRITICAL PART OF THE WORLD.

FOWLER: BUT THIS HAS BEEN A CONTINUING PROCESS?

SECRETARY VANCE: OH, YES.

FOWLER: AND NOTHING THAT ---

SECRETARY VANCE: NO. END TEXT. VANCE

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